(b) if so, what action has been taken on the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Nazir is one of the immediate subordinates of the District Judge;

(d) whether this petition was sent to the Special Officer of the Anti-Corruption department;

(e) what are the findings of the District Judge in the enquiry and whether the Central Nazir admitted having received the silver articles;

(f) whether it is a fact that the informant, another subordinate of the District Judge, is being proceeded against on the ground of alleged false complaint; and

(g) whether the Government propose to send for the records in the case, and examine the position and pass suitable orders?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan) :—" (a) No petition alleging corruption against the Central Nazir, District Court, Chingleput, was received in the Home Department on 8th April 1947 but a petition, dated 7th June 1947, was received.

" (b) & (d) The petition, dated 7th June 1947, was transferred to the High Court for disposal.

" (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (e), (f) & (g) The Government have called for the necessary information and the connected records."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that the Nazir has admitted that he has taken some valuable silver vessels from the subordinate process-servers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have yet no information but we have called for the same."

Labour employed on plantations.

* 97 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the labour force employed on the plantations in the province has been organized into 'Trade Unions' and if so, what the number of such Trade Unions and their membership is;

(b) whether the staff other than labour employed on the estates are eligible to join these trade unions;

(c) whether the Estate Staff Association have applied for the registration of their organizations under the Trade Unions Act and if so, whether they have been registered;

(d) whether the Estate Staff Union (Anamalais) applied for registration under the Trade Unions Act and if so, when the application was made and when it was registered; and

(e) whether representations have been received requesting Government to appoint a committee to enquire into the grivances of the estate staffs and if so, what the decision of Government in the matter is?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Yes. Sir, two Unions have been organized, viz., The Nilgiris District Estate Workers' Union, Ootacamund, and the Anamalai Estates Labour Welfare Union, Valparai. The former had a membership of 2,555 at the time of registration, viz., 1st July 1947. The application of the Anamalai Estates Labour Welfare Union, Valparai, has been returned to them by the Registrar of Trade Unions for rectifying certain defects.

" (b) Yes. Sir.

" (c) Yes. Sir. The Estates Staff Union of South India, Glenview, Coonoor, applied for registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act and it was registered on 24th March 1947.

" (d) No. Sir.

" (e) The Estate Staff Union and Estate Staff Association, Anamalais and the National Plantation Labour Union, Valparai, asked for the appointment of a Board of Arbitration to enquire into and remedy the grievances of estate workers. As the Rege Committee has already made a comprehensive survey of plantation labour and as two special Labour Welfare Officers have been appointed to look after their interests, it is not considered necessary to institute a fresh enquiry in this matter."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, by whom these Welfare Officers have been appointed, whether they have been appointed by the Government or by the employers? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They have been appointed by the Government."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether these Welfare Officers are empowered to enquire into the conditions of labour and to make recommendations to the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They have been empowered to make recommendations."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Do the Government propose to take any action on those recommendations? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is open to the Welfare Officer to make recommendations to the Government and bring to the notice of Government conditions of labour employed on the plantations and if it is necessary, Government will certainly look into the matter."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I ask the Government, Sir, whether these Welfare Officers work under the supervision of the Commissioner of Labour or the employers concerned? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They are working under the Commissioner of Labour."

Ban on rice mills.

* 98 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have banned the starting of new rice mills;